

**AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 12, line 14, as follows:

The upstream and downstream seat regions 22, 20 of the valve needle 10 are shaped so that wear of the needle 10 occurs in both downstream and upstream directions relative to the seating line 112 in approximately equal amounts. This is achieved by selecting a relatively small upstream differential angle  $\Delta 1$  between the upstream seat region 22 and the seat cone angle,  $\theta S$ , and by selecting a relatively small downstream differential angle  $\Delta 2$  between the downstream seat region 20 and the seat cone angle,  $\theta S$ , and where the differential angle  $\Delta 2$  on the downstream side is slightly smaller than the differential angle  $\Delta 1$  on the upstream side. Typically, for example, the upstream and downstream seat regions 22, 20 may be shaped so as to define a differential angle  $\Delta 1$ ,  $\Delta 2$  with the nozzle body seat angle,  $\theta S$ , of between about 0 degrees 10 minutes and 5 degrees.